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Approved For Release 2002/07/02 : CIA-RDP73B00296R000200010091-9 27 August 1971

Agency Briefings Before Senate on Laos 1961-71 *

<u>Date</u>	<u>Committee</u>	<u>Senators Present</u>		<u>Topics Covered</u>
2 May 1961	Foreign Relations	Capehart Carlson Williams	Hickenlooper Sparkman Morse	Laos: U. S. continues to support all elements of the Laotian Army. Discussion on possible
Dulles		Fulbright Mansfield Long Church	Gore Symington Aiken	
21 Aug 1961	CIA Subcommittees, Appropriations and Armed Services	Russell Hayden Stennis	Saltonstall Byrd Mansfield	Laos: Cited as illustration of area where Agency had paramilitary program. Includes arming, equipping, training Meo guerrillas. About 8,000 have been trained. A very highly-trained unit of 100 assists. Other details of PM program in Laos discussed including future method of funding which is uncertain.
2 Feb 1962	CIA Subcommittees, Appropriations and Armed Services	Russell Hayden Byrd Chavez	Robertson Saltonstall Young Stennis	Laos: Budget Briefing - Paramilitary activities as part of Agency program. Support to indigenous forces, including technical, air, arms, ammo, troop salaries. As an illustration, cited support rendered Laos, principally to Meo tribes. Helms outlined role of Meos and Vang Pao, and explained policy and decision-making process.

*NOTE: A total of 55 members have at one time or another been briefed on CIA involvements in Laos. 53 senators have attended one or more of the 27 briefings here listed, and two others--Senators Eagleton and Bentsen--have been briefed privately in response to their requests in connection with visits to the area.

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21 May 1962	CIA Subcommittees, Appropriations and Armed Services	Russell Saltonstall Young	Stennis Mansfield	Laos: Fitzgerald, back from visit, covered political and military situation, communist airlift of supplies.
27 Mar 1963	CIA Subcommittees, Appropriations and Armed Services	Russell Byrd Stennis	Saltonstall Hayden Young	Laos: Situation described as at standstill or "escalating into a stalemate." Internal political struggles. Pathet Lao action. Soviet and ChiCom keeping out letting N. Vietnamese give major support. Laos plays a stepping stone role. PDJ action with Kong Le. Order of battle figures. (Nothing on Agency support of para-military activity but Meos and Vang Pao discussed.)
19 May 1964	CIA Subcommittees Appropriations and Armed Services	Russell Saltonstall Hayden	Stennis Young	Laos: Should be viewed as integral part of Southeast Asia situation - Pathet Lao forces driving neutralist off of PDJ. Laos on supply route to Cambodia. Sihanouk position vis-a-vis U.S. U.S. aid terminated. (No Agency operations mentioned).
11 Jan 1965	Armed Services and DOD Subcommittee of Appropriations	Russell Hayden Ellender Hill Young (O.) McClellan Robertson Stennis Pastore Jackson Cannon Thurmond Hruska	Byrd (W. Va.) Inouye McIntyre Brewster Saltonstall Young (N. Dak.) Mundt Smith Kuchel Allott Case Lausche	Laos: Confused political situation. Pathet Lao no major military action since PDJ takeover. Overall situation is stalemated. Cambodia: Sihanouk moving toward China on the assumption S. Vietnam will fall and it is better for him to move first. Cut off aid to him. Ellender asked if we give any aid at all. Was told none not even technical.

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9 June 1965	CIA Subcommittees, Appropriations and Armed Services	Stennis Young	Saltonstall	Laos: Signs of instability in Government, but this is normal for Laos.
DDCI Helms				Cambodia: U.S. relations with Cambodia are poor but they would oppose occupation by ChiComs.
6 Aug 1965	CIA Subcommittees, Appropriations and Armed Services	Stennis Young	Saltonstall Hayden	25X1A Laos: [] (Chief FE) briefed on Agency program in Laos discussing in considerable detail the tribal effort. Phouma, the Premier, was generally informed but not in detail. He also briefed on the [] supplemental in the current DOD supplemental.
Raborn				25X1A
5 April 1966	CIA Subcommittees, Appropriations and Armed Services	Russell Stennis Saltonstall	Young Smith	25X1A Laos: [] went through his prepared briefing on the supplemental appropriation of [] He used graphics to show training results, para-military action of teams, deployment of CIA assets and discussed our program against N. Vietnam from other places in the world.
Raborn				25X1A
21 Sept 1966	CIA Subcommittees, Appropriations and Armed Services	Russell Symington Stennis	Saltonstall Young Smith	25X1A Laos: Laos program discussed rather fully. Expenditures of [] more than the [] in the budget. Use of the Reserve for Laos and Vietnam would reduce the level to a dangerous low and that supplementary funds should be considered. Senator Russell specifically stated Reserve depletion to accomodate the RDC or Laos requirements should not be done without checking with the Committee first. Considerable discussion of the Laos situation. DCI pointed out that he had briefed Secretaries McNamara and Rusk this week and received their reaction that Laos is the only successful war the U.S. is fighting at this time.
Helms				25X1A

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6 Oct 1966	Preparedness Investigating Subcommittee, Helms Armed Services	Stennis Jackson	Cannon Thurmond	Laos: DCI touched on Laos indicating there had been no Communist gain and that the Communists had been suffering substantial casualties
				Cambodia: No change in situation. Cambodia used for rehabilitation of N. Vietnamese troops and as sanctuary
				Thailand: Efforts taken by Thais to eliminate insurgency in north.
21 Feb 1967	CIA Subcommittees, Appropriations and Armed Services	Russell Hayden Mundt Young	Jackson Thurmond Smith Symington	Laos: Supplemental appropriation for Southeast Asia. In Laos the cost for road watch and tribal guerrilla welfare programs is going to exceed 25X1A
Helms				25X1A [] this year which will require [] in supplemental. Committee is familiar with large paramilitary program there. Road watch teams added during 1964. Continued support for 40,000 tribal guerrillas. Two major areas of cost are materiel and air support. Programs in Laos are covert and we have no choice but to fund them.
5 Oct 1967	Armed Services	Stennis Symington Jackson Cannon Pearson Tower	Miller McIntyre H.F. Byrd Dominick Brewster	Laos: Entire briefing devoted to Laos.
Helms	[]			

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19 Jan 1968	Armed Services	Russell Symington Jackson	Cannon Smith Pearson
Helms			25X1A
<p>Laos: Suffered a reversal at Nam Bac. Laotian army not good fighters. But Meos perform extremely well. [redacted]</p> <p>American presence in Laos is small. If it weren't for Vang Pao situation would be much worse.</p> <p>Thailand: Insurgency in northeast corner continues. Tribes pass back and forth to N. Vietnam.</p>			
23 Jan 1968	Foreign Relations	Fulbright Sparkman Mansfield	Hickenlooper Aiken Williams
Helms		Gore Lausche Symington Pell	Mundt Case Cooper
<p>Laos: Thais used in flying light aircraft [redacted] 25X1C</p> <p>[redacted] Communists stepped up military campaign, have taken Nam Bac valley. Situation in N. Laos is because Communists have left it on back burner. S. Laos is trail area and Communists try to keep it open.</p> <p>Cambodia: Confused situation but intelligence has evidence Viet Cong using Cambodia for base.</p>			
16 Jul 1968	CIA Subcommittees, Appropriations and Armed Services	Russell Stennis Symington Jackson	Hill Smith Young Mundt
Helms			25X1A
<p>Laos: Why do we hold only unimportant places after all we put in - (Symington) Irregular pay, equipment, training, all done by [redacted] 25X1A</p> <p>officers. Road watch results. We get better results for [redacted] in Laos than all we put in Vietnam (Symington). Laos film shown.</p>			

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26 Sept 1969	CIA Subcommittees, Appropriations and Armed Services	Russell Ellender Young	Mundt Stennis Symington	Laos: Agency has nothing to do with regular Laotian forces. Agency giving funds to Laos for several years. Funds are very carefully audited.
Helms				25X1A [REDACTED]
				25X1A [REDACTED] Vang Pao directs Laotian forces.
				25X1A [REDACTED] is one of the finest officers in the Government (Symington). Road watch team operation explained. Agency has [REDACTED] in Laos, [REDACTED] Laotian government knows and consents of all Agency actions.
28 Oct 1969	Subcommittee on U. S. Security and Agreements Abroad, Foreign Relations	Symington Fulbright Mansfield	Aiken Cooper Case	Laos: Number of personnel in Laos and budget.
Helms				25X1C [REDACTED] used for other roles. 1969 buildup in north central Laos and south Laos. 20 Thai pilots [REDACTED] 25X1C
[REDACTED]				[REDACTED] Senator Fulbright complains about not being informed on funding. Four training camps for Meo tribesmen. No quid pro quo [REDACTED] 25X1C pay scale explained. Number of guerrilla forces in north and south Laos.
30 Jan 1970	CIA Subcommittees, Appropriations and Armed Services	Russell Ellender Young Stennis Symington	Jackson Dominick Fulbright Mansfield Aiken	Laos: Status of Agency operations unchanged since last briefing. Senator Symington complains about not being told about U. S. bombing in Laos. Senator Dominick recalls having been briefed on it as early as 1967 at the White House.
Helms				

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13 Mar 1970	Foreign Relations	Fulbright	Aiken	25X1A Laos: [redacted] Tactical situation in northern and panhandle areas;
Helms		Mansfield	Case	25X1A panhandle operations. [redacted] U.S. personnel in Laos - funds, duties, location.
		Gore	Cooper	25X1A Senator Fulbright did not know CIA was using [redacted]
		Symington	Williams	
		Pell	Javits	
		McGee		
20 Mar 1970	CIA Subcommittees, Appropriations and Armed Services	Stennis	Mansfield	Laos: Vang Pao's army fatigued and threatened. Hanoi's intentions and objectives in Laos.
Helms		Symington	Aiken	Northern panhandle situation. Operational history of Agency actions in Laos.
		Dominick	Goldwater	
		Ellender	Smith	
		Young		
7 Jul 1970	Foreign Relations	Fulbright	McGee	25X6 Laos: Status of war in south Laos, Ho Chi Minh trail actions. [redacted] considering sending regulars or ethnic Cambodians to aid Cambodia.
Helms		Symington	Case	
		Pell	Cooper	
19 Nov 1970	Subcommittee on DOD, Appropriations	Ellender	Allott	Laos and Cambodia: Problem is Indochina, not Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia separately.
Helms		Stennis	Hruska	
		Pastore	Symington	
		Mansfield	Jackson	
		Young	Thurmond	
		Smith		
				Laos: DCI believes that "punch" will come around PDJ in northern Laos. Importance of protecting and expanding trail in south Laos. Northern Laos and Long Tieng are tempting targets to Communists.

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4 Mar 1971	Armed Services	Stennis Symington Cannon	Smith Thurmond Dominick	Laos: Activity in north - Long Tieng, Luang Prabang. Bolovens Plateau operations. Three separate Agency operations. ChiCom road building activity.
Helms		McIntyre Byrd	Schweiker Saxbe	Cambodia: Government functions without Lon Nol. Military situation. Communist attempt for political control and harassing actions.
23 Mar 1971	Foreign Relations	Fulbright Sparkman Mansfield Symington Pell McGee	Spong Aiken Case Javits Pearson	Laos: Lam Son 719 evaluated. Communist actions shift from Vietnam to Laos and Cambodia. Activity on north - Long Tieng, Luang Prabang. Three separate Agency operations. ChiCom road building activity. General Vogt testimony. No more personnel there than before. [redacted] most knowledgeable person in Laos (Symington). Bombing in north. Agency supports 29,000 irregulars and [redacted]
Helms				25X1A 25X1C 25X1C [redacted] No sheep-dipped military working for CIA.
				Cambodia: Government functions without Lon Nol. Military situation. Communist attempt for political control and harassing actions. No paramilitary, no training, no financing. Cooper/Church ammendment applies to CIA in Cambodia (Senator Case).
11 Jun 1971	Subcommittee on Intelligence Operations, Appropriations	Ellender Stennis	Young	Laos: President approves Agency operations. Discussion of Agency operations in Laos in relation to other programs.
Helms				Cambodia: Souvanna Phouma got no CIA money.

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